

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Copper and Nickel Production

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. The planned production of copper in East Germany in 1952 was 27,300 tons. This was finally achieved, but only by large withdrawals from reserve stocks and a frenzied search for scrap during the last quarter. The chief reason for the difficulties in achieving planned production lay in the fact that the metal yield from ores was not up to the expected average of 11.650 Kg. per ton worked but, in fact, yielded on the average only 9.730 Kg. per ton.
2. The three copper producing plants in East Germany are:
 - a. VVB zur Produktion von Kupfer und Zink, Mansfeld, consisting of:
 - (1) The Karl Liebknecht works with a daily capacity of 3000 tons of ore.
 - (2) The August Bebel works with a daily capacity of 1800 tons of ore.
 - (3) The three works in Hettstedt producing fine copper.
 - b. Kupfer-und Blechwalzwerk Michael Niederkirchner VEB, Ilseburg, consisting of three plants:
 - (1) The crude copper plant producing 86 to 90% pure metal from scrap with a monthly capacity of about 800 tons of ore.
 - (2) The anode copper plant with a monthly capacity of about 2000 tons of ore.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- (3) The electrolytic plant with an annual capacity of about 9,600 tons of ore.

c. Berliner Metallhuetten und Halbzeugwerke consisting of:

- (1) The Niederschoeneweide smelting plant with a daily capacity of about 118 tons producing 92% pure copper from scrap, bronze from scrap and wire bars.
- (2) Berliner Halbzeugwerke (the former Deutsche Messingwerke) Both producing semi-
- (3) Sonderbronze Berlin-Oberschoeneweide (the Admos Allgemeines Deutsches Metallwerk in Oberschoeneweide) finished products.

3. In the three months December 1952 to February 1953, the following quantities of electrolytic copper were produced at Hettstedt:

December 1952	261 tons
January 1953	266 tons
February 1953	238 tons

The 1952 total production was 3,185 tons. In addition, the following small quantities of nickel were produced:

December 1952	2.8 tons
January 1953	2.4 tons
February 1953	2.6 tons

4. Nickel production in East Germany has, up to the present (sic.) been on a very small scale, the chief plant being at Freiberg in Saxony, but it is planned to produce larger amounts in the new works under construction at St. Egidien (near Glauchau). This will, when finished, be composed of six furnaces and 24 generators to smelt ores from the nearby mines at VEB Nickelerzgrube Kuhschnappel. The first furnace with an estimated daily capacity of 200 tons of ore is expected to be ready in July 1953. A sketch-map of the area in which the works is being built is attached as Annex 1.
5. Experiments in the production of pure nickel are still going on at Freiberg, in the electric vacuum furnace there. The chief difficulty so far has been in getting rid of the last traces of lead derived from the electrolytic process.

1. Comment. There has been no confirming report indicating that the Mansfeld combine includes plants in Hettstedt. Kupfer-und Messingwerke, Hettstedt is reported as still in SAG Marten in January 1953.
2. Comment. Located in Freiberg in VVB Buntmetall are VEB Zinhuette, VEB Bleierz.

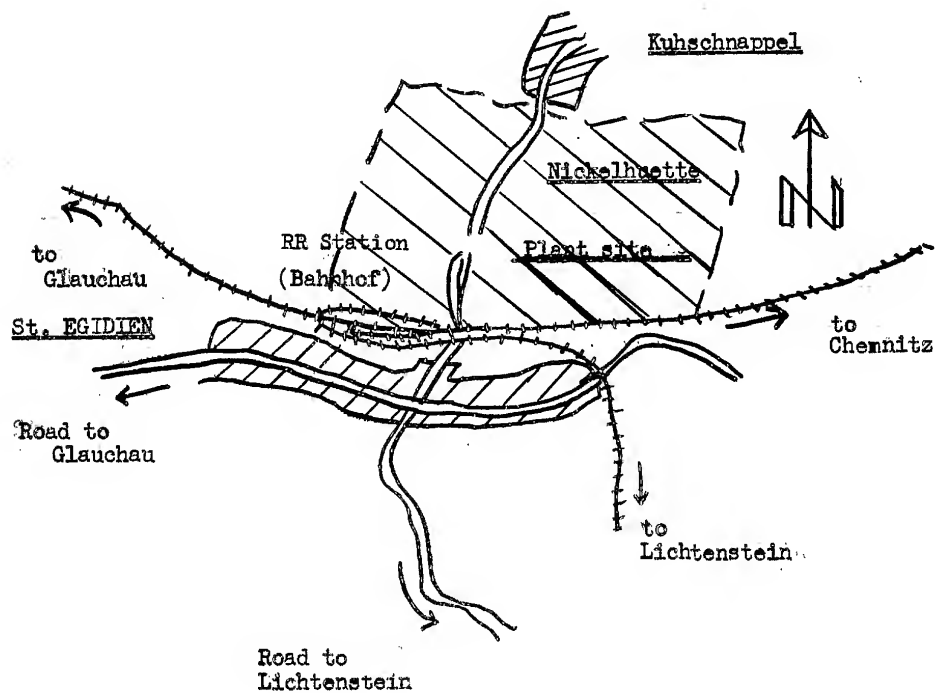
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Annex 1: Sketch Plan of Nickel Plant under Construction at St. Egidien (Saxony):



Scale: about
1 : 50,000

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